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# REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Service

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840 Boatmen's Bank Bldg., St. Louis 2, Mo.

REAR GUARD  
CIVILIAN SERIAL RECORD  
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## HOW SOLDIERS CELEBRATED V-E DAY

A description of V-E Day from a soldier is the real McCoy. Sgt. Broodus V. Brown gives a most interesting one. Referring to the night of May 7, he writes, "Last night was really the big time for us. As soon as unconditional surrender was known, we brought our piano out into the yard and the merry-making started. Accompanying the piano was a trumpet and a drum. The whole battalion joined in and sang many G.I. songs. In the meantime the drum and bugle corps, such as it was, started a parade and after a few rounds around the field someone conceived the idea to burn Hitler at the stake. It had to be a great big painting, but nothing was too good for us. The bonfire was made with the aid of five gallons of gasoline, and then the most thrilling incident of the evening took place----the whole battalion sang the National Anthem. Never before have I heard anything more pleasing to the ear.

"To add significance to our celebration, right across the court is a barracks filled with German hospitalized P.W.'s. Apparently they were impressed, too, because every one of them that were able to be out were lined up around the barbed wire enclosure that separates us from them.

"Today the Air Corps was out celebrating. Several times I saw a V-E formation. Seeing that makes a fellow feel as he never felt before."

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## AROUSED FROM HIS WRITING APATHY

A recent issue of the Roll Call stirred S/Sgt. John R. Genau into action. He comes across with a letter written from Hdqrs. Adriatic Base Command. In it he confesses to being negligent about writing, explaining, "I will drop a line to let you know I am still in circulation....I am looking forward to a return to the States before the end of the year, and most of all I am looking forward to the day when I can return to REA!"

## HE SAW IT IN GERMANY

Pfc. Phil Widman had a great time watching the Jerries surrender. In his letter dated April 28, he says, "The Germans are running up to us on all sides to surrender---they are afraid of the Russians. Went through a town where a mass Nazi atrocity was committed just before we took over. SS men herded slave laborers into one hovel, nailed the doors down, sprayed the wooden building with gas and set it all on fire with incendiary grenades. Those who broke through the windows to escape were mowed down by a machine gun set up by the gate. I saw the aftermath of the burned bodies strewn all over the ground, draped over barbed wire and in all sorts of grotesque and horrible positions. I have seen many ugly sights in this war----but this is just about the worst. It was so dreadful as to be inconceivable. Yet it was true. I saw it in Germany."

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## HELP US FIND THEM

The Roll Call editor worries about the G.I. Joe's and Jane's whose Roll Calls come back with all kinds of stamping on the envelope such as "left no forwarding address", "no record in directory", "moved", "not here", and other such discouraging dead-end notations.

If anyone knows anything of the present whereabouts of the following please notify the Roll Call: Sgt. William Anderson; Lt. David Birenbaum; Pvt. Dean F. Coffman; Pvt. Wm. Henry Davis; Capt. Erwin M. Graham, Jr.; Lt. S. George Heycey; Lt. Comdr. T. Leonard Mikules; Cpl. J. C. McReynolds; Lt. George K. Mowry; Lt. J. R. Northrop; Lt. Frederick A. Ripley; Lt. William D. Scoates; and Capt. Walter L. Wolff.

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## SEABEE GOODWIN HEARD FROM

Seabee Russ Goodwin stops buzzing from his work in one of the colder regions of the Pacific long enough to tell us, "It's been a very

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## TWO CAME BACK TO VISIT

Coincidence entered the picture last week when two boys, a coast guardsman and a soldier, from the old Project Voucher Audit Section, turned up from widely divergent places on furloughs and dropped in to visit the REA gang. Y1/c Elmer J. Poss entered service three years ago this month. Sixteen of his months in service have been spent on the Cutter Greenbrier patrolling the eastern seaboard, working on buoys and watching for enemy subs. After his furlough he is due to go to Cincinnati. He expects active duty in battle operations from now on.

So many strange faces in REA confused Yeoman Poss. He wanted to do something about looking up his pals of former days, so Henrietta Geyer acted as "pilot," taking him to those nooks and corners where she knew some of his old friends were still working in REA.

S/Sgt. Bob Todd had better luck along this line. He not only got to visit old cronies at their work but even got in on REA's 10th birthday party with wife Ruth all aglow by his side. Sgt. Todd has been overseas a year in New Caledonia where it rained a lot but the food was good, and that helped. Bob acquired no tropical fevers because New Caledonia is almost disease free. But the place did not appeal to him and he hopes to stay in the States. He goes next to Georgia to take infantry training.

## SEABEE GOODWIN HEARD FROM (Cont'd)

long time since I have had mail from anyone at REA...Well, I finally got out of the States. I'm in a section of the world that seems to be pretty well squared away. It's cold here. There is snow on the surrounding mountains even now. I have a swell 'Quonset Hut,' clean, warm, and painted inside with nice large beds and lockers. We even have tables and a Silex coffee set-up, too! Of his base he says it is really large, with recreational facilities including skiing and trout and salmon fishing. He adds, "I'm really tickled with the break I received. Of course it's lonesome, and I miss my family and friends, but sure can't kick." He sends a copy of "String-a-Bee," battalion house organ, which exemplifies the true "Bees" spirit.

## GETTING YOUR OLD JOB BACK

By John W. Asher, Jr.,  
Chief of Personnel Division

We hope a great many of you are planning to return to your old job after the war; if that job doesn't exist any more, you have a good claim to a job with equal seniority, status and pay. The program is expanding, and REA is having a time recruiting experienced help.

If you come back to your old job, you will receive your former salary plus any within-grade promotions to which you would have been entitled had you remained in your civilian position.

We want to tell you that each REA employee on military furlough is considered along with other applicants whenever a promotion is made. Quite a number of promotions have been made in absentia. These employees probably will not have additional within-grade promotions while they are in service, as the Comptroller General has ruled:

"\* \* \* 'Seniority' may not be recognized as a right for advancement from grade to grade under the Classification Act and, accordingly, a record or paper promotion of a former civilian employee from grade to grade under the Classification Act when he was out of his civilian position during service in the armed forces may not be recognized as having any legal force or effect for the purpose of granting within-grade promotions in the higher grade upon reemployment after discharge from the armed forces."

If you want to come back with us, please let us know as soon as possible after your discharge from service. The law provides that employees furloughed for Maritime Service (Merchant Marine) may request reemployment after discharge within 40 days, instead of 90 days, as allowed to other furloughed employees.

## NO MORE JUNGLES FOR HIM

Lt. Joseph M. Davis writes from a general hospital ward in the Burmese theatre of operations, "I'm still more or less in one piece and guess I'll be headed home before long. I've had enough jungles to last me awhile. Have been here in India, Burma, and China for six months now, two of which I've been hospitalized. My hands aren't so steady since I was sick this time with fever, dysentery, and collapsed lung."

## ALL MIXED UP IN HIS HABITS

Lt. Bruce G. Bingham, in answer to inquiries, disclaims writing to anyone except his mother. He gets himself back into the good graces of REA friends by suddenly popping up here from Perth, Australia where he has been stationed for 34 months as deck and executive officer. In all that time, the only other REAer he ever ran across while "down under" was 1st Lt. Landy B. Altman,

After such a long sojourn on a foreign strand, Lt. Bingham finds it a bit confusing to be back in the States. Exchanging money bothers him in particular. He still thinks in terms of shillings, pence, and half-notes. And he's afraid to drive a car now because he is sure he'd do it the English way and tangle with traffic cops for wrong-side-of-the-road driving.

He likes Australia and thinks the girls there are fine, but passed up the opportunity of bringing one home as his bride. Now that the European war is over, he is being assigned to duty there and taken out of the Pacific where the war still is! He doesn't understand it himself.

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## ONE MORE GULLEY TO CROSS

Lt. Harry Thiesfeld writes from his naval base in the Admiralty Islands, saying among other things that he had heard from Capt. Don Lowery. (That's more than the Roll Call can say.) Lt. Thiesfeld is in the midst of the tropics. Summer and rainy weather all the time. Skin diseases and malaria are the worst enemies. Prickly heat breaks out about every week or ten days. "In addition to that," he says, "you have to watch and fight the so-called 'jungle rot,' a jungle disease of the skin, which surely can be annoying when you perspire. Athlete's foot and ear fungus are also problems.

"My present job is Equipment Officer, maintaining, designing, etc., various types of handling gear for our activity. I also draw various odd engineering jobs. Right now I'm working during spare moments, with lowest priority, on a suspension foot bridge across a gulley. Believe my design is sound, thanks to T=w12.  
8S and REA designing. Now all I have to do is find enough scrap material to work on."

## SUNDAY IN THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, so Maj. D. E. Basler gets away from this pitfall by mixing in some recreation with the many duties that clamor for his attention. "Some of us," he writes, "have obtained bicycles and enjoy riding around town (Paris) these long warm evenings. One of the nicest spots for this riding is down in the Bois de Boulogne, the largest of the many parks in Paris. It is in the west part of the city next to the Seine and is made up of several square miles of wooded ground. There are many bridle paths, cycling paths, and roads winding back and forth across it. In one place there is a large lake with a picturesque island in the center. It is the playground of Paris, particularly on a Sunday afternoon. Oh, yes, I forgot to mention the race track which never fails to be well attended. It is quite a sight to see the horse-drawn wagons and carts going to and returning from the tracks with full loads of enthusiasts."

Referring to his work, which is with the Signal Corps, the Major comments, "One would be amazed at the amount of paper work that is required in the fighting of a war. It runs pretty well up near the tonnage of bombs that is used in some of the big raids."

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## COMMENDS INTELLIGENCE OF NATIVES

After traveling hundreds of thousands of miles flying all over the Pacific in charge of a radar squadron, Lt. Comdr. Wm. P. Stevens returned to the States April 1. His current assignment is in the Chief of Naval Operations office, Washington, D. C.

Most of his overseas service, he told us on his visit here, was spent on British possessions---the Admiralty, New Hebrides, Solomon, and other islands---where the equipment was ours (U.S. property) but British rules prevailed, so driving on the wrong side of the road became a fixed habit with him.

The natives, he said, were more intelligent (especially those of Polynesian descent) than you might suppose. They learned to drive jeeps and were especially helpful in making landing fields and air strips by operating bulldozers and other construction equipment.

## COLUMN WRITE!

Not all of our service people, when visiting REA on furlough, remember to drop in at the Roll Call office. But Bob Howell of the U. S. Navy did. He has finished his boot training at Great Lakes and is waiting tentative assignment which will continue to keep him there. He tells us he's in with a bunch of 17-year-olds from the South and likes the Navy fine. He thinks he got quite a break induction day when a Navy officer said to him, "You're in the Navy" when right behind him Larry Cates was told by the same officer, "And you're in the Army." (Larry, what do you say?) Seaman Howell gives advance notice that Jack Taylor, also stationed at the Lakes, will be down on furlough the last of May.....

Lt. Wm. Melchiorsen gets his Roll Calls down in the Mariannas and says, "They have been greatly enjoyed by me in the past 29 months but now it seems they are more welcome than ever since coming to this base (lonesome). A pleasant surprise was meeting Ray Severine on April 6 and more recently Capt. David Askegaard was encountered----sounds like a small world. Another REAer here (up to recently-Editor) is Hamilton Treadway whom I hope to meet any day. If there are others, they can meet me at the Radio Material office."

Lt. (j.g.) Nat Levinson gets energetic at his Aleutian base and makes a couple of little trinkets for Mr. Samuels. They are two whiskey glasses made out of old 20 MM machine gun shells "that were expended in a good cause," and are quite ducky. He says, "I would have liked to do a better job on them, but power driven machinery is practically non-existent and I had to do a large share of the work with elbow grease." Nat expects to be heading back about October for Florida where he "can soak up all the sunshine" he has missed the past year.

C. A. Kurth stops from his new duties as Chief Specialist Photographer long enough to write 5 lines to the Roll Call to say he gets it, enjoys it, and looks forward to each new copy. Thanks!

Lt. (j.g.) Frances Ruhl telephoned from the station late one night on her way through St. Louis. She didn't find anybody home, and the message she left didn't say where she was going.

One of the long-lost ones, Lt. Harold Kelley, suddenly turned up in person this week to visit REA. Thirty days is the longest any one address is good for him, so consistently is he shifted from one place to another. But somehow, love being what it is, he managed to stay in one place long enough to get engaged, according to rumor, to a young lady flight officer here on a mission from England. He neither confirmed nor denied the engagement, but did say he expected soon to be engaged in the Pacific struggle where he felt he'd have a lot of good company since the shift of men to that theatre of operations was so great.

Lt. Houston Lay on an LSM figures on being sent shortly to the Pacific also. He states by letter, "My FPO will soon be San Francisco, so you can have a very good idea as to where I'm bound for. Had Oz Briden aboard for breakfast when he was in Washington. He was anxious to see the ship. I also had Bill Helfrich, Lionel Summers, K. W. Blackburn, Bob Weber, and a few others over for a meal. Seemed almost like old times, but I did regret not seeing the rest of the old REAers."

Leaving Hallowe'en night for Marine Camp boot training apparently has been a boost all the way through for Cpl. Ann Vernier. By now she is not only a corporal but has had the further honor of being one of eight Marine girls to be chosen as guard of honor at the San Francisco United Nations conference. Her regular work at the Marine Supply Depot in San Francisco is secret and she isn't allowed to discuss it.

Lt. James R. Oberholtzer writing from Red Bank, N. J., says, "I ran into Bob Rader, another REA lad, here at the lab the other day. He tells me that Kelley (Lt. Harold) is at the radar school at Ft. Monmouth....By the way, I finally traded in that gold bar for a silver one a little while back."

REA enjoyed a short but pleasant call from Lt. (j.g.) Kenneth Hale recently when he stopped between trains enroute to Wichita to visit his folks. He's stationed at Annapolis where he makes gas turbine tests. His work is too secret for open discussion.

(Cont'd on page 5)

**COLUMN WRITE!**  
*(Cont'd.)*

Things are so quiet on the Mariannas that Capt. David Askegaard remarks in a recent letter, "Sad thing, isn't it, when I have nothing better to think about than voltage regulation?" He says an office at which he works part time is soon to get another officer. None other than Lt. Don Housley, another REAer! (Don Housley is the boy whose picture was selected sometime ago for the cover page of RE News).

From his new location, Hamilton Treadway, CEM, writes, "So far I've been spending my time getting acquainted with fire control equipment, a rather intricate and interesting feature of this business." If other REAers are in his vicinity (Honolulu), he wishes they'd look him up (Industrial Design Section, Navy Yard). Treadway has relatives in Honolulu and relieves some of his loneliness by visiting them.

Driving from the east back to his Liberal, Kansas post, Capt. William Britt stopped off at REA and tarried long enough to get in on the 10th anniversary ball. His presence there was sort of representative of all those others from REA in military service. They were also represented that night by the service flag with its 346 stars that formed the background of the stage where the orchestra sat.

Lt. (j.g.) K. J. Plucknett, assigned to the USS Moosehead off the \* coast, is getting well acquainted with " \* dew" which is mostly fog, it seems---low hanging clouds with about 1000-foot ceiling which makes it so damp every night that, in spite of practically no rain this time of year, gardens are kept growing by the fog. He recently went back to do some work at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington and to Ocracoke Island, N. C. While in Washington he enjoyed visits with the Poarches, Willimases, and Alfers.

\*Name of southern Pacific Coast State deleted by Chamber of Commerce.

A clipping of interest to many comes from Navy Lt. H. Lester Reynolds stationed in Washington, D. C. It was taken from the War Department's publication "War Times" and included a reference to the work of Lt. Col. Fred Jordan, a former REAer now with Ordnance. Col. Jordan was recently awarded the Legion of Merit for his development work on a mine detector.

**DOWN ON THE LEVEE**

Ensign George M. Scherrer has been attending school in New Orleans where at first he was the only pupil but had several teachers. He has lately been assigned to the USS Hamblen where his responsibilities aboard ship include the care of all electronic equipment. Describing New Orleans scenes, he spoke of having spent "the last three evenings walking on the Mississippi levee and watched tons of good mid-western soil flowing to the Gulf of Mexico. All this could be prevented by dams properly located----and you know what could then be used with the dams."

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**COLUMN WRITE!**  
*(Cont'd.)*

Lt. Herman Harms, USNR, is with an Airborne Radar Training Unit in Rhode Island where his work consists of conducting not a gold mine in the sky but a "classroom" in the sky, as he terms it. He teaches pilots and air crewmen the use of radar. It is from him we learn Walter Geltjen has been promoted to lieutenant j.g. They see each other at Otis Field, Mass. Harms further relates, "Today is V-E day, but the only thing out of the ordinary in my daily routine was 4 shots fired---by the Navy boosters---into my arm!"

John T. Wright, formerly a lieutenant with the Signal Corps, has returned from military furlough and is back at his duties in D & C.

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**HUCK ROWE REPORTS ON HIS WORK**

Lt. H. E. Rowe, USNR, who is stationed at Arlington, Va., has flown through St. Louis at night twice on his way to the West coast, but a 20-minute stop in the wee hours of the morning gave no time for phoning friends. Of his work he says, "It is associated with radar although actually it is quite another breed of cats. Most of the equipment starts out in the secret stage and eventually gets down to a confidential classification, so I don't discuss it outside the Bureau (of Ships). The disconcerting thing is to have a secret equipment or a description of its accomplishments pop up in a

## HERE TO THERE DEPARTMENT

W. I. H. Treadway, CEM, Navy 128, FPO, San Francisco; Lt. Bruce G. Bingham, Pensacola, Florida; S 1/c Leonard J. O'Donnell, LSM 146, FPO, San Francisco; Lt. Robert E. Rader, Long Branch, N. J.; Y1/c Harriet R. Heller, Alexandria, Va.; Maj. Milton A. Pilcher, Silver Springs, Md.; Ensign George Scherrer, APO 114, Mobile, Ala.; Pfc. Charles Parrott, FPO, San Francisco; S/Sgt. John R. Genau, APO 388, New York; Pvt. Orton L. Evans, Camp Croft, S. C.; Lt. R. S. Weber, Washington, D. C. Navy Yard; Lt. Herman Harms, Quonset, R. I.; Lt. Comdr. William P. Stevens, Navy Dept., Washington, D. C.; Lt. Harold W. Kelley, Fresno, Calif.; Lt. James R. Oberholtzer, Red Bank, N. J.; Maj. Joseph E. O'Brien, Hdqrs. Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; C. A. Kurth, CSp (P), Phillipine Islands; Y2/c R. A. Goodwin, B-761, FPO, San Francisco; Sgt. Broadus V. Brown, APO 339, New York; Cpl. Ann Vernier, San Francisco; Pvt. Robert M. Cox, APO 958, San Francisco; Sgt. A. L. Frank, APO 245, San Francisco; Samuel E. Hoss, CSp (Q) (RP), FPO, New York City.

## BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Married: Lt. Albert J. Stern, on military furlough from Management Division, to Lt. Jessie J. Moskowitz, May 6, at San Bernardino, Calif.

Born to Sgt. and Mrs. Broadus V. Brown a daughter, Brenda Frances, March 22. Sgt. Brown before military furlough was an engineer trainee in Personnel.

## GOING UP

Ray L. Garcia S1/c; Lt. (j.g.) Kenneth Hale; Capt. David Askegaard; Leonard J. O'Donnell S1/c; Elmer J. Poss Y1/c; Capt. William G. Britt; T/Sgt. Sidney J. Gutman; Harriet R. Heller Y1/c; S/Sgt. John R. Genau; Clifford A. Kurth, Chief Specialist Photographer; Cpl. Ann Vernier; Lt. (j.g.) Walter O. Oeltjen; and 1st Lt. James R. Oberholtzer.

## BATTLE LIFE REVIEWED BY SID STODDARD

From the Ryukyus, scene of some of the hottest fighting in the Pacific, comes a letter from Capt. Sanford M. Stoddard describing in vivid detail the grimness of battle. Sid is the Adjutant of his group, which is several thousand strong, and numerous other duties devolve upon him, also, so that he is kept quite busy.

Among his souvenirs are a Jap officer's pistol and a Jap rifle. Among his memories are battle details such as "bombings, shellings, sniper fire, terrible explosions, rain, deep mud, mosquitoes, fleas, rats, mice, mites, snake scares, rumors, orders, counter-orders, disorders, confusion, exasperation, action, inaction, destruction, distraction, narrow misses, laughing, weeping, wise-cracks, inane remarks, cold food out of cans, doubtful water, on and on and on."

Of his battle existence he writes, "It's been six weeks since any of us have had a full night's sleep--completely undisturbed. At

(Cont'd in next column)

## SID STODDARD

(Cont'd)

first sleep was just in snatches standing up, sitting down or lying in a foxhole. It was dig a foxhole (in hard clay), move and dig another one, take your atabrine, use your mosquito repellent, use your head net or bed net, lie down in mud and water in a ditch or foxhole when things got too hot and until the all clear sounded, shiver and shake in your foxhole when 'Pistol Pete' (a very unpleasant enemy character) opens up on your position with his 150 millimeter super gun.

"Things are smoothing out now. Order arises out of seeming chaos and confusion. The outfit is clicking wonderfully. You'll be reading about it in the papers, if you haven't already. We're eating warm food and plenty of it, and there is some prospect of getting more and better sleep. But I'm ready, willing and able to go on another operation if we're ordered forward again. However, I would like to get back to see my family before that happens.....I have never seen the new son who is now about five months old."